

# Mayor's Council on African American Elders

C/O – Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County  
Mailing Address: PO Box 34215, Seattle WA 98124-4215  
Office Address: Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, 51<sup>st</sup> Floor  
(206)684-0706 \* TTY (206)684-0274 \* FAX (206)684-0689  
Website: [www.seattle.gov/MCAAE](http://www.seattle.gov/MCAAE)

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July 19, 2019  
Southeast Seattle Senior Center

**Members Present** – Brenda Charles-Edwards, Claudette Thomas; Paul Mitchell; Mattie Taplin; Cynthia Winters

**Excused** – Benjamin Abe Rev. Janice Davis; Tricia Diamond; Ina Howell; Dr. Brenda Jackson

**Guests** – Beth Boram, Beacon Development Group; Arielle Wesley-Washington, Mayor's Office; Pamela Williams, LTCOP

**ADS Staff** – Cathy Knight, ADS Director, Brent Butler, Age Friendly; Karen Winston, Liaison

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## I. **ADS Director's Report** - ADS director Cathy Knight, provided the following report:

### State

- ADS held a public hearing for the next Area Plan 2020-2023 and the 2020 discretionary allocation recommendations on July 18, and over 40 people attended. Another hearing is scheduled for Monday, August 5, at the SHAG Tukwila Sullivan Center.
- Mark your calendar for the Statewide Advisory Council meeting and Senior Lobby Conference, scheduled for October 23 & 24, in Tacoma.
- Representation is needed for the statewide Advisory Council meetings. The meetings are held monthly in Sea-Tac. Let Cathy know if anyone is interested in participating.

### Federal

- On July 30, Representative Adam Smith will host a community meeting on the needs of older adults.
- The Older American Act expires at the end of this fiscal year. Congress is currently working on reauthorization. There will be funding formula changes. More to come...

### Local

- The Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) provides additional funds to support nutrition services for older adults in Seattle. The budget for 2020 also includes one FTE planner to help ADS best allocate these funds. One-time only funds were also allocated to support the Seniors Farmers Market Program in 2019. SBT funds used by the Mayor may have to be restored. This may have an impact on programs funded with SBT.
- Cost of living adjustments (COLA) increases may be coming for providers and staff.

### Age Friendly – Brent reported the following:

- Currently promoting transportation equity in partnership with the Seattle Department of Transportation.
- Implemented the My Savings Jar program in partnership with AARP.
- The Seating Program is working to create more benches in downtown Seattle.
- Also working on Public Life Indicators, which measures level of activity with Seattle neighborhoods.

## II. **Seattle Housing Levy Oversight Committee Presentation**

Beth Boram, Deputy Development Director – Beacon Development Group (BDG), is a member of the Seattle Housing Levy Oversight Committee. The BDG is a non-profit affordable housing

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consulting firm that works with non-profits and housing authorities. Their mission: Bringing expertise, commitment, and passion to advocating for and successfully developing quality affordable housing.

Currently, there are 13 Seattle Housing Oversight Committee members. The role of the Oversight Committee, is to

- Monitor the progress of Levy Programs and reporting to the Mayor and the City Council on the progress of Levy Programs;
- Review the Seattle Housing Levy Administrative and Financial Plan, with is to be updated every two years; and
- Inform Mayor and City Council of Levy Program accomplishments and challenges and make recommendations of the Administrative Financial Plan.

The 2016 Housing Levy will provide about \$290 million for affordable housing in Seattle over the seven years. Housing Levy Programs include the following:

Program	Total Funding (7 years)	Est. Housing Produced	2018 Accomplishments	Description & Affordability Levels
Rental Production & Preservation	\$201,000,000	2,150 units produced or preserved; 350 unit reinvested	1,031	Rental housing for low-income; people with disabilities; older adults; homeless; and low-wage families with children.
Operating & Maintenance	\$42,000,000	510 units	233	Operating support for Levy-funded buildings, supplementing rent for residents at or below 30% of AMI.
Homeless Prevention & Housing Stability	\$11,500,000	4,500 households	Up to 308	Rental assistance and stability services for individuals/families below 50% of median income to prevent evictions and address homeless.
Homeownership	\$9,500,000	280 households	105 634 (Acquisition & Preservation)	Emergency home repair; foreclosure prevention; assistance for first-time homebuyers and other homeownership opportunities.

Beth highlighted how areas of the Housing Levy Administrative & Financial Plan support recommendations in the MCAAE Advocating for Change Report, related to housing for older adults and people with disabilities; affirmative marketing and community preference policies. The Seattle Office of Housing is working with the Seattle Office of Civil Rights to develop guidelines for housing providers who plan to use community preference. A Community Preference Round Table will take place this summer, and guidelines will be produced by the end of 2019. The guidelines will allow residents to get preference for affordable rental and homeownership opportunities in high-risk of displacement communities.

Beth ended her presentation with suggestions for what MCAAE members can do to advance their priorities for extremely low-income housing.

1. Work with community housing development organizations (e.g., Mercy Housing; Capitol Hill Housing; Africatown; and the Low-Income Housing Institute) to encourage prioritizing a project for extremely low-income older adults in the Central District.
2. Have a MCAAE member be nominated to the Levy Oversight Committee.

### **III. Grandparents Day Planning Update**

- Brenda has asked AARP to support Grandparents Day. If granted, it will be used to cover the reception, storytelling and a DJ.
- A speaker is confirmed – Former MCAAE member Dr. LaShawnDa Pittman, who will address grandparenting and kinship care.
- Exhibitors will include AARP; Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Center for MultiCultural Health; Aging and Disability Services and the FACTS.
- Arielle offered to assist with a City of Seattle Proclamation. Karen will ask King County.

### **IV. August Meeting Agenda** (Location – Central Area Senior Center)

- Continue planning for Grandparent Day.
- Note: The location for the September meeting is confirmed at the Liberty Bank Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 16, at the Central Area Senior Center.